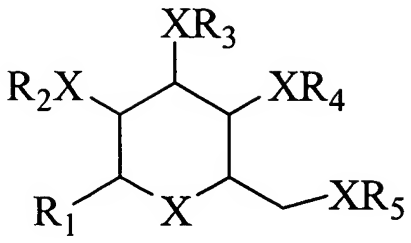
We claim:

1. A compound of the formula:



wherein:

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of -alkyl and -aryl;

R_2 and R_3 are selected from the group consisting of -alkyl, -aryl, -allyl and -H;

R_4 and R_5 form a ring and are selected from the group consisting of -CH(Ph)- and –CH(aryl)-;

X is selected from the group consisting of O, N and S;

or a pharmaceutically active derivative thereof.

2. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein R_1 preferably is selected from the group consisting of phenyl and benzyl; R_2 and R_3 are preferably selected from the group consisting of –methyl, -ethyl, -allyl, -propargyl and hydrogen; R_4 and R_5 form a ring and are selected preferably from the group consisting of –CH(Ph)-, -CH(naphtyl)- and -CH(biphenyl)-; and X is preferably O; or a pharmaceutically active derivative thereof..

3. A method of treating a pathogenic viral infection in a mammalian subject comprising the step of administering to the subject a composition comprising at least one compound of claim 1.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the composition contains a compound of claim 1 in an effective anti-viral amount.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein the mammalian subject is a human patient or another mammal.

6. A method for treating a pathogenic viral infection in a mammalian subject where the infective agent is resistant to one or more other therapies, comprising the step of administering to the subject a composition comprising an effective anti-viral amount of a compound of claim 1.

7. A method as defined in claim 3, wherein the viral infection is an infection caused by herpesviridae.

8. A method as defined in claim 8, wherein the viral infection is an infection caused by cytomegalovirus.